

I am urging you to pass HB2927 to enact the "National Popular Vote interstate compact". This compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The shortcomings of the current system of electing the President stem from state winner-take-all statutes (i.e., state laws that award all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state).¹

Because of these state winner-take-all statutes, presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the issues of concern to voters in states where the statewide outcome is a foregone conclusion. Two-thirds of the 2012 general-election campaign events (176 of 253) were in just 4 states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia, and Iowa). Thirty-eight states, including Oregon, were ignored.¹

State winner-take-all statutes adversely affect governance. "Battleground" states receive 7% more federal grants than "spectator" states, twice as many presidential disaster declarations, more Superfund enforcement exemptions, and more No Child Left Behind law exemptions.¹

Even if enacted in Oregon now, the National Popular Vote interstate compact would not take effect until enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough to elect a President (270 of 538).

Under the compact, the national popular vote winner would be the candidate who received the most popular votes from all 50 states (and DC) on Election Day. When the Electoral College meets in mid-December, the national popular vote winner would receive all of the electoral votes of the enacting states.¹

Oregon's neighbors, California and Washington, have already passed the National Popular Vote interstate compact as have Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, Hawaii, Massachusetts, District of Columbia, Vermont, New York and Rhode Island (165 electoral votes so far).

The compact ensures that every vote, in every state, will matter in every presidential election.¹

The National Popular Vote bill preserves the Electoral College and state control of elections. ¹

I urge you to support making Oregon a National Popular Vote interstate compact signatory.

Please move this bill forward now and support it in the Oregon legislature.

Thank you.

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1. Information obtained from: www.nationalpopularvote.com